

REMARKS

1. The Office Action has restricted Claims 1 - 20 as being directed to two groups of patentably distinct inventions under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121. Claims 1 - 18 are deemed to be in Group I as being directed to a cargo containment apparatus in Class 410, subclass 94, while Claims 19 - 20 are in Group II as being drawn to a method of preparing a cargo transport in Class 414, subclass 809.

In response thereto, Applicants elect for prosecution the Claims of Group I (Claims 1- 18). Accordingly, Claims 19 - 20 have been canceled from this application for inclusion in a divisional application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this restriction be withdrawn and Claims 1 - 18 be examined.

2. The Office Action has also deemed Claims 1 - 18 as being directed to patentably distinct species, with at least Claim 1 being deemed as a generic claim. The Office Action requires a provisional election between species, as well as an identification of the claims directed to each species.

In response thereto, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant patent application identifies two different species of cargo containment apparatus, namely, Species I corresponding to Figs. 1 - 11 and 16 - 18, and Species II corresponding to Figs. 12 - 15 and 19 - 24.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims should be identified as follows:

Generic - Claims 1 - 3 and 12 - 14

Species I - Claims 4 - 6, 8, and 15.

Species II - Claims 7, 9 - 11 and 16 - 18.

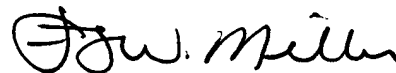
In further response to the election requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Species II in the event no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

3. In summary, Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled, and Claims 1 - 18 remain in the application. Applicants believe that the claims are allowable based on the foregoing amendments. Applicants respectfully request that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call Applicant's attorney, if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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